



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE

February 2, 2012

Sgt. Larry Harpster has reported that on Thursday, February 2, 2012, at 0753 hrs., the Lake County Sheriff's Office and Perry Joint Fire District were dispatched to Vrooman Road at the Grand River in Perry Township when it was reported that a vehicle had driven off the roadway and was submerged in the Grand River.



When Deputies and rescue arrived on scene they found that a blue 2009 Kia Rio, which had been traveling northbound on Vrooman Road, was submerged in the Grad River. However, it was immediately made clear that the driver and no other occupants were inside the vehicle when rescue units arrived.

The accident investigation showed that the vehicle had been driven by a 42 year old female. However, due to suspected medical issues, the female drove off the right side of the roadway, over an embankment, and into the river. As the vehicle began to sink in approximately 12 feet of water, the female, who was the lone occupant in the car, was able to climb out of the vehicle through the driver's side window. At that moment, an unknown male, who was passing when the accident occurred, dove into the water, and assisted the female driver to the shore line. The male then left the scene prior to being identified for his heroic actions.



The female was transported to Tri-point Medical Center in Concord Township, and was then flown via Life-Flight to Cleveland Metro Trauma Center for treatment for hypothermia. The Lake County Sheriff's Office Dive Team, headed by Deputy Donovan Buchs, was able to assist in recovery of the vehicle from the

bottom of the river.

The female victim in this case was very fortunate that this Good Samaritan was able and willing to assist her, despite near freezing water temperatures. The Lake County Sheriff's Office is still investigating this accident, and is still working to identify the male who's selfless actions helped a woman in need.

Frank Leonbruno

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